

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 /080 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:WHSIEFKEN:LJM

APPROVED BY AF/C:HJCOHEN

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R 192035Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT: MELADY'S BOOK

AMBASSADOR MELADY MET WITH MINFORAFF SIMBANANIYE AND
AMB. NADBANIWE FOR ONE AND ONE HALF HOURS YESTERDAY AT
THE MINISTER'S REQUEST TO DISCUSS AMB. MELADY'S FORTHCOMING
(JULY) BOOK ON BURUNDI. THE MINISTER SPENT THE FIRST
HALF HOUR LAYING OUT THE OFFICIAL POSITION CONCERNING THE
PROBLEMS IN BURUNDI I.E. THERE IS NO ETHNIC OR TRIBAL
PROBLEM, ALL ONE PEOPLE, ONE LANGUAGE, ALL TROUBLE CAUSED
BY OUTSIDERS. AMB. MELADY IN REPLY STATED THAT WHILE ALL
THE PEOPLE ARE MURUNDI, SPEAK ONE LANGUAGE, ETC., IN HIS
OPINION THERE ARE TWO SEPARATE COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE
SOCIETY AND THESE TWO COMMUNITIES HAVE ALLOWED THEIR
DIFFERENCES TO ENGENDER VIOLENCE. MELADY CITED OTHER
INSTANCES OF THE SAME PHENOMENA OF DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES
WITHIN ONE SOCIETY IN THE U.S., NORTHERN IRELAND, BELGIUM
AND OTHERS. MELADY EMPHASIZED THAT IN HIS BOOK HE TRIED
TO PLACE THE PROBLEMS OF BURUNDI IN HISTORICAL
PERSPECTIVE AND DID NOT SEEK TO CONDEMN EITHER SIDE. HE
SAID THAT HE COULD NOT AGREE WITH THE MINISTER'S ANALYSIS,
BUT FELT THAT THE TWO COMMUNITIES IN BURUNDI MUST FIND A
NON-VIOLENT MEANS TO WORK OUT THEIR PROBLEMS. HIS BOOK
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REFLECTED HIS PERSONAL INTERPRETATION OF THOSE PROBLEMS.

HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GREAT POWERS SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED BUT RATHER IF OUTSIDE HELP IS NEEDED, IT SHOULD COME FROM

FELLOW AFRICANS WHO HAD FACED SIMILAR PROBLEMS. THE MINISTER THEN RESTATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION, BUT SHIFTED HIS ARGUMENT SLIGHTLY TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE PEOPLE HAD RE-UNIFIED FOLLOWING THE EVENTS OF '73 AND THAT THAT SORT OF THING WOULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN. THE MINISTER AGAIN PLACE THE BLAME ON OUTSIDERS FOR THE EVENTS OF '73 BUT SAID HIS GOVERNMENT COULD NOT SAY TOO MUCH AS THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE ADJACENT STATES WERE FRIENDLY.

THE CONVERSATION WAS ON A FRIENDLY BASIS AND THE MINISTER SEEMED ASSURED THAT THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS ESTABLISHED DURING AMBASSADOR MELADY'S STAY IN BURUNDI HAD NOT BEEN BETRAYED. THE AMBASSADOR WILL SEND THE MINISTER PAGE PROOFS OF HIS BOOK WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE AND ACCEPT COMMENTS. HE ALSO STRESSED TO THE MINISTER THAT OTHER BOOKS ON BURUNDI WILL BE PUBLISHED THIS YEAR WHICH WILL NO DOUBT BE MORE CONDEMNATORY CONCERNING THE EVENTS. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, AMBASSADORS, BOOKS, TRIBALISM, TRIBAL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE080158
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WHSIEFKEN:LJM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740093-0335
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740428/aaaaayud.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ECTED HIS PERSONAL INTERPRETATION OF
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <12-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MELADY'S BOOK AMBASSADOR MELADY MET WITH MINFORAFF SIMBANANIYE AND
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, BY, (SIMBANANIYE, ARTEMON), (MELADY, THOMAS P), (NADBANIWE, JOSEPH)
To: BUJUMBURA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005